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Public Opinion Ends Aero Visits

***Richard Harding Davis Believes Germans Heard of Ambassador
Herrick's Questioning of Paris Police, at Request of American Committee.***

Paris, via London, Sept. 14. – The retreat of the German right, which on September 6 was as near to Paris as the Forest of Crecy, to points seventy kilometers distant has naturally relieved the tension in this city. It has also cleared the air of aeroplanes. Now for airships to reach the city it would be necessary to pass over the heads of the allied armies.

But it is also probable that public opinion has much to do in calling a halt to this visit from which only the innocent were sufferers. Acting on the protest of the American Committee in Paris, Ambassador Herrick asked the police for evidence of bomb throwing from aeroplanes. The fact that this request was made probably became known to the German authorities in Berlin. In any event, for six days the aeroplanes' visits have ceased. In buildings of historic value that could not be replaced, in monuments and galleries of art, Paris is so rich that to throw a bomb without destroying something of value to the world would require a careful aim. Those bombs that did fall were of specially vicious nature. I saw a photograph, taken by the authorities, of the body of a young woman who was struck by a bomb. It showed nineteen wounds. The mutilations of other bodies could not be described.

German Position Made Untenable

During the withdrawal of the Germans the question was raised if it were not voluntary and part of a preconceived plan to strengthen the army in the center. There is evidence now on the battlefields over which General von Kluck's army retreated to show that the positions the Germans attempted to hold were rendered untenable. On the hills where their guns were entrenched Normandy poplars of enormous girth and height were uprooted by the English artillery as by a cyclone, and where trees cannot stand neither can men.

A further evidence was the amount of ammunition abandoned by the Germans. Apparently no effort had been made to save it. This and the number of dead still lying in the fields and in the trenches suggest it was not a withdrawal according to a plan, but a forced flight. Still further proof of this is the guns taken by the British.

Prisoners Lost Through Error

The prisoners they captured are said to have been lost through the error of their own people, who too soon blew up the bridges across the Marne, thinking that all their men already

had crossed. About fifteen hundred who had not crossed the river were swiftly surrounded by the British and surrendered.

The rule against permitting correspondents to accompany the allied armies was to-day again illustrated by the return to Paris under arrest of John Reed, of "The Metropolitan Magazine"; Mr. Boone, of "The Times"; Mr. Jeffries, of "The Daily Mail"; Robert Dunn of "The New York Evening Post," and two others of "The Daily Mirror" and "The Times." Two days ago the six walked from Crecy to Coulommiers and asked permission of General Smith Dorrien to accompany his column. They were by him turned over to the French staff, who explained that they were not under arrest, but sent them guarded by gendarmes to Paris, with orders to report at 5 o'clock to-day at military headquarters and then proceed to the City of Tours, where they are to be released. On their papers they are described as "not dangerous."

Whether the trip to Tours is intended as a punishment or is meant to keep them well away from the field of operations they do not know. They departed for that city this evening.